



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH
APRIL 2008

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong developmental disability, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, autism is the third most common developmental disability, affecting 1,500,000 individuals nationwide, and 4000 individuals in this state; and

WHEREAS, autism is the result of a neurological disorder affecting the functioning of the brain, but few members of the general public understand this complex syndrome; and

WHEREAS, although a cure for Autism has not been found, persons with Autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential. Accurate, early diagnosis, and the resulting appropriate education and intervention are vital to the future growth and development of the individual; and


WHEREAS, support groups, such as the Autism Society of North Dakota, a Chapter of the Autism Society of America and the Bismarck Chapter of Autism Speaks, have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with Autism; and

WHEREAS, these groups remain committed to their cause and to educating families, professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability; and

Autism Awareness Month Proclamation
Page 2

WHEREAS, autism is a complex disability that requires increased research to one day find a cure and prevention; and greater recognition and understanding to ensure that individuals with Autism living in North Dakota and all other Americans with Autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2008, **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.


John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State